

RESCUE SPECIALIST

August 29, 2003

a. Position Description

The Rescue Specialist is responsible for performing the rescue function of the Task Force incident operation. The Rescue Specialist reports directly to a Rescue Squad Officer.

The Rescue Specialist is responsible for:

- Implementing technical skills and operating equipment necessary for completing the rescue portion of the Tactical Plan;
- Performing rescue operations under the direct supervision of a Rescue Squad Officer and providing periodic progress reports as needed;
- Applying appropriate US&R tactics and techniques such as rope rescue operations, confined space rescue, shoring and stabilization, breaching, trench rescue, heavy rigging, heavy lifting operations, victim packaging, and extrication;
- The safe and effective operation and routine field maintenance of rescue tools and equipment;
- Adhering to all safety procedures;
- Providing accountability, maintenance, and minor repairs for all issued equipment; and
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned during a mission.

b. Position Requirements and Criteria:

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Rescue Specialists in the DHS/FEMA US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements is to select personnel fully capable of providing the rescue tactics and techniques required in a disaster environment. The requirements and criteria for the position are identified in the following categories:

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Abilities.

Knowledge:

The Rescue Specialist:

- Must have successfully completed the First Responder Operations Level for Hazardous Materials as per OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response;
- Must be a current State-sanctioned Emergency Medical Technician – Basic certification or equivalent;

- Must be knowledgeable of safety considerations during US&R operations, including the possibility and consequences of earthquake aftershocks and factors contributing to soil and structural instability;
- Must meet the prerequisites outlined in NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents for Trench Rescue Technician, Rope Rescue Technician, Confined Space Technician and Transportation/machinery Technician; and
- Should successfully complete the DHS/FEMA Rescue Specialist Course.

Skills:

The Rescue Specialist should:

- Be proficient in basic fire extinguishment techniques per NFPA 1001 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications or the standards of the sponsoring agency;
- Be proficient in rope rescue techniques outlined in NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents;
- Be proficient in confined space rescue techniques as per the OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.146, Permit Required Confined Spaces and outlined in NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents;
- Be proficient in shoring and stabilization techniques outlined in NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents;
- Understand specialized technical rescue terminology; and
- Be proficient in rescue strategy, tactics, and operations at collapse sites.

Abilities:

The Rescue Specialist must:

- Be able to integrate with local resources, and other US&R Task Forces and rescue components; and
- Be able to use specialized extrication equipment (per manufacturers' specifications).

c. Operational Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to define the duties and responsibilities of the Rescue Specialist during a mission assignment. The list is intended to be a general summary of actions. It should be understood that:

- Some required actions may not be listed, but must be identified and assumed by this position;

- Some actions may be the primary responsibility of another Task Force position, but may require assistance and coordination from this position; and
- The actions are listed in a general chronological order, but may require deviation.

(1) Upon Activation/At Task Force Assembly Point:

See general operational checklist.

(2) At Point of Departure:

See general operational checklist.

(3) In Transit:

See general operational checklist.

(4) Arrival at Mobilization Center:

See general operational checklist.

(5) On-Site Operations:

- Implement tactical component of Task Force Tactical Plan; and
- Assist in the packaging and transfer of injured victims, under direction of the Medical Team Manager, to local emergency medical services and other support networks.

(6) Reassignment/Demobilization:

- Notify the assigned supervisor of the loss or potential maintenance requirements of any assigned tools and equipment.